

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 902
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1615

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (PARA 4 LN 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CARR (LAPPEMAN, EDMUND H)
SUBJ: LAPPEMAN: TWO SOUTH AFRICANS RECAPTURED

REF: ANT 1612 AND PREVIOUS

1. RADIOK AND TV ANNOUNCED SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, THE
RECAPTURE OF WIGHT AND MARAIS ABOUT 80 MILES EAST OF
ANTANANARIVO ON THE HIGHWAY LEADING TO THE COAST AND
TO THE PORT OF TAMATAVE. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT OF
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RECAPTURE IN AUGUST 28 MADAGASCAR MATIN, THE TWO MEN
WERE IN GOOD SHAPE AND CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE HAD ANY
ACCOMPLICES IN THEIR ESCAPE. THEY ARE ALSO REPORTED
TO HAVE SAID THAT LAPPEMAN HAD NOT JOINED THEM AS HE
WAS TOO OLD AND WOULD HAVE SLOWED THEM UP. THEY HAD
WARM CLOTHING WITH THEM, SOME FOOD SUPPLIES, 6,000
MALAGASY FRANCS (ABOUT \$28), AND A MAP OF MADAGASCAR.

THEY HAS BEEN TRAVELING BY FOOT MOSTLY, SLEEPING AWAY FROM INHABITED AREAS. POLICE OFFICIALS OF MORAMANGA, DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF THE AREA, HAD FIRST BEEN ALERTED TO THEIR POSSIBLE PRESENCE BY SIGNS OF ACTIVITY IN A LONG ABANDONED HOUSE, AND BY A REPORT FROM A LEADER OF A WAGON TRAIN ON WHICH THEY HAD HITCHED A RIDE. THE TWO MEN CLAIMED TO HAVE DUG THEIR ESCAPE HOLE THEMSELVES WITH AN IRON BAR BUT NEWSPAPER QUESTIONS THEIR LACK OF ACCOMPLICES IN VIEW OF THEIR POSSESSION OF CASH AND MAP.

2. WEEK-LONG DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO MEN HAD LED LAST WEEK TO SEVERAL APPEALS FOR PUBLIC VIGILANCE, NOT ONLY IN LOOKING OUT FOR ESCAPEES, BUT IN DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA SPOKE IN SOUTH OF COUNTRY ABOUT MANEUVERS AGAINST REVOLUTION AND SUSPECT ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGNERS IN MADAGASCAR, HE SAID FOUR FOREIGNERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN FORT DAUPHIN, FOR POSSESSION OF DISTRESS FLARES, FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT WITH SUCH A FLARE LAST SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, IN FORT DAUPHIN MARKET. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED ARREST OF A FOREIGNER, POSSIBLY ONE OF FOUR ABOVE, FOR HAVING NO IDENTITY PAPERS ON HIM.

3. RECAPTURE OF WIGHT AND MARAIS SHOULD RESTORE A MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE IN MALAGASY AUTHORITIES AND
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DIMINISH FEELING OF VULNERABILITY AND LEVEL OF SUSPICION, AS MOST ESCAPE ATTEMPTS BY FOREIGNERS IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. AS STATED IN REFTTEL, THE RECAPTURE SHOULD ALSO WORK IN PAPPEMAN'S FAVOR IN THE LONG RUN. IN THE SHORT RUN THERE EXISTS UNFORTUNATE POSSIBILITY THAT MALAGASY AUTHORITIES WILL INSIST ON LENGTHY INVESTIGATION OF ESCAPE ATTEMPT BEFORE ALLOWING JUDICIAL APPEAL TO GO FORWARD. LAPPEMAN MAY ALSO STILL BE IMPLICATED IN ESCAPE ATTEMPT AS MONEY IN WIGHT AND MARAIS' POSSESSION VERY PROBABLY CAME FROM HIM IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

4. LAPPEMAN WAS SEEN SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, BY OWNER OF RESTAURANT WHICH IS SUPPLYING HIM MEALS AND SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY. BARRETT

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